

Joining Hands

Sharing Good Practice In Rehab Between The Western Pacific WHO CCs

E-Newsletter- Issue No. 1 (August, 2011)

Edited by Ms. Sheila Purves and Ms. Ortal Shamay-Lahat

Introduction

This is the first issue of a new e-newsletter aimed to enhance communication and collaboration among the Western Pacific WHO CCs, the WPR office and DAR office in Geneva. It is planned to be issued twice a year and distributed via email.

Let's communicate, share and stimulate each other in our roles as WHO CCs, to promote and support rehabilitation in the Western Pacific Region!

In This Issue

Part 1

Highlights of WHO CCs Work in the Western Pacific Region

Part 2

Actions Supporting the WHO New Initiatives Related to Disability and Rehabilitation

Part 3

Useful Resources

Part 4

Events

Abbreviations Used In The E-Newsletter

CBR	Community-based Rehabilitation
CDPF	China Disabled Persons Federation
DAR	Disability & Rehabilitation Office, WHO, Geneva
Guangzhou	Zhong Shan #1 Teaching Hospital WHO CC for Rehabilitation, Zhong Shan University, Guangzhou, China
HKSR	Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, WHO CC for Rehabilitation, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China
NORFI	Negros Occidental Rehabilitation Foundation Inc WHO CC for Rehabilitation, Bacolod, The Philippines
NRC, S Korea	National Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities, South Korea
NRCD	National Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities, Japan
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
UN	United Nations
WCPT	World Confederation of Physical Therapy
WHO CC	WHO Collaborating Centre
WPR	Western Pacific Region
WPRO	Western Pacific Regional Office, WHO
Wuhan	Tongji Hospital WHO CC for Rehabilitation Research and Training, Hua Zhong University of Science & Technology, Wuhan, China

Part I Highlights Of WHO CCs Work In The Western Pacific Region

From HKSR

Reported by Ms. Sheila Purves, Hong Kong



Investing in Education of Rehabilitation Professionals

We are co-operating with the China Association of Rehabilitation Medicine to organize short “up-date” courses for rehabilitation doctors, nurses, therapists and teachers of therapists from top-level hospitals in the provinces of China where rehabilitation services are relatively under-developed. We ask all teachers to use the ICF as their framework and to emphasize the clinical reasoning process, team work, and links with the community through case discussions and debates.

In 2010, we had 267 participants, and we have two years to go. The project aim is: “training of trainers”; the project challenge: will these people carry out the second and third level training? Watch this space in the next newsletter!

Some initial feedback includes:

- The funders: “It’s great that you are training doctors, nurses and therapists from one hospital, so they can really use this team to push rehab developments. But in the institutional environment of the hospital, can they really make changes and can they actually support community work?”
- Participants: “We hope you will make more follow-up visits and lead case discussions in our own hospitals and communities.”

- Rehab Department Director: “My staff who have attended these courses have come back with new perspectives; it’s not about the content; it’s about the attitudes.”

For further information please contact Ms. Sheila Purves: sheila.purves@rehab society.org.hk

From Wuhan

Reported by Prof. Nan Dengkun, China



1) The Lancet: The First Disability Issue

To welcome the 2009 International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Lancet and WHO co-edited and published the first disability issue. This is the first time for the Lancet in its 186 years of history. This initiative is also guided by the UN International Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the objectives of the Lancet: “Entertain, Instruct and Reform”.

There are altogether 17 articles in this issue and 8 oral reports by persons with disabilities. All these articles came from Canada, Kenya, Uganda and the United Kingdom. Six key articles were translated into Chinese, which can reflect the essence of the issue:

1. Disability: beyond the medical model.
2. Key concepts in disability.
3. Health care and the UN Disability Rights Convention.
4. Disability and the training of health professionals.
5. Community-based rehabilitation: opportunity and challenge.
6. Child disability screening, nutrition, and early learning in 18 countries with low and middle incomes.

The Wuhan WHO CC coordinated rehabilitation professionals in China to complete the Chinese translation and published in the Lancet Chinese Periodicals. This is the first time in the Lancet Chinese Periodicals to discuss the International Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities with solid actions. We wish that persons with disabilities in China can benefit from this effort.

www.thelancet.com/themed-disability

2) Participation in the China Legislations for Community-based Rehabilitation

In June 2009, we were invited by the CDPF to participate in the legislation work for the national rehabilitation for persons with disabilities. We were assigned to draft the "Community-based Rehabilitation Ordinance".

With reference to the National Laws, Policies, Documentations and CBR literature, validation by focus groups on specific topics, and under the guidance of 16 CBR experts from the CDPF, we completed the final draft of the ordinance. The draft document includes five parts with 32 regulations and a number of appendices. It is based on the principals of UN International Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the spirit of "Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons". It stresses the social model of disability, the core concept of CBR and the importance of comprehensive rehabilitation medicine.

We also enhances the concepts of "mobility is the key to realize social participation" and the sustainability of CBR.

3) Latest Projects

This year, of special interest is:

(1) Translation of the summary of the World Report on Disability, at request of WHO.

(2) Community rehabilitation for stroke with training for community nurses, patients and their families, co-operating with Project HOPE- Health Opportunity for People Everywhere.

(3) The first "Hu" Forum, which brings together rehabilitation professionals from Hunan and Hubei Provinces at the end of October.



Project HOPE-Health Opportunity for People Everywhere

For further information please contact Prof. Nan Dengkun: nandk@126.com

From Guangzhou
Reported by Prof. Zhuo Dahong, China



Development of the Rehabilitation Professions

We are strongly involved in recent developments of the rehabilitation professions. Our colleagues are working on standards of practice and national curriculum guidelines for therapists. The Ministry of Public Health is working to get professional licensure for "rehabilitation therapists".

We are promoting the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy specialist training in some university curricula. However, the field of Speech Therapy remains a major issue, with the only school for Speech Therapists being located in Hong Kong, and taught in English. We welcome international support and exchange.

I am very pleased that The Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation Vol. 21: Supplement (March 2011), edited by Da-hong Zhuo and Chetwyn CH Chan was published. The theme: Occupational Rehabilitation in 21st Century Asia Pacific: Facilitating Health and Work. It's available online at www.springerlink.com.

For further information please contact Prof. Zhuo Dahong: dhzhuo@gmail.com

From NRCDC
Reported by Dr. Tsutomu Iwaya, Japan



1) Model Projects for Supporting PWDs

We are conducting three model projects to develop and disseminate support programs for persons with disabilities in Japan.

1. Model project of living skills training for persons with deafblindness:
Currently, the status of persons with deafblindness in Japan has not been made clear, so those persons cannot receive appropriate services in the community. We are conducting a two-years (2010- 2011) project in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the organization of persons with deafblindness in Japan. The purpose of this project is to develop living skills training programs and to cultivate training specialists.

2. Model program for adolescent with developmental disabilities:

This program consists of assessment, diagnosis, rehabilitation service, transition and continuous support for employment. In 2010, we disseminated our experience to relevant societies and people through seminars and symposia.

3. Model project for supporting persons with higher brain dysfunctions:

This project was started in 2006 and at present, core institutes for supporting person with higher brain dysfunctions have been set up in all prefectures in Japan. We are establishing a network within the country.

2) Research and Development of Affordable Assistive Products and Its Service for PWDs

We are conducting research and development of assistive products, particularly information support systems and assistive products for daily living for persons with dementia.

You can visit the following URL:

<http://www.rehab.go.jp/ri/kaihatsu/kaihatsu.html>



NRCDC building, Japan

3) International Seminars

We held international seminars in 2010 and 2011:

1. "International Cooperation to Develop Inclusive Society" (Feb. 2010):

We invited technical officer of DAR as a lecturer of WHO CBR Matrix. About 100 people attended the seminar.

You can visit the following URL to view the report of the seminar:

<http://www.rehab.go.jp/english/whoclbc/seminar.html>

2. "Development of Orphan Products to Improve Quality Of Life of Persons with Disabilities" (Feb. 2011): We invited lecturers from NRC, Korea and China Rehabilitation Research Center. About 110 people attended the seminar.

4) Training Program for Rehabilitation Professionals in Japan and Overseas Countries

In 2010, we conducted 21 short-term training programs for 1,220 rehabilitation professionals in Japan. In addition to domestic training programs, we are working in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency for technical support of rehabilitation in developing countries. We accepted 27 rehabilitation specialists from Asia and Latin America.

For further information please contact Ms. Yoko Nishimura: nishimura-yoko@rehab.go.jp

Part 2

Actions Supporting The WHO New Initiatives Related To Disability And Rehabilitation

WHO Community-based Rehabilitation Guidelines

HKSAR, Wuhan and Guangzhou, three WHO CCs, have completed the Chinese translation of the CBR guidelines as collaboration project, under the leadership of Prof. Nan Dengkun (Wuhan), Prof. Zhuo Dahong (Guangzhou) and Dr. Joseph Kwok (HKSAR). Prof. Nan and his Wuhan team are finalizing the translation this month. Shih Wing Ching Foundation (HK) and Handicap International are funding the publication.

We will launch the Chinese version in early December in Beijing, in co-operation with the CDPF. We expect to present The World Report on Disability to participating Ministries and officials on the same occasion.

<http://www.who.int/disabilities/cbr/guidelines/en/index.html>



From right to left: Prof. Huang Xiaolin (Wuhan), Prof. Joseph Kwok (HK), Prof. Zhuo Dahong (Guangzhou), Mrs. Sheila Purves (HK), Ms. Mandy Lau (HK).

The World Report on Disability

The first world report on disability was launched in June 2011 by the WHO and the World Bank. Key message: there are more than one billion people in the world with disability; that is one in every seven people and the prevalence is on the rise. The report provides evidence of the situation of PWDs around the world, describes policies and programmes that can improve the lives of PWDs, and contributes to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Prof. Zhuo Dahong (Guangzhou) is taking a lead to ensure editorials and articles in Chinese journals and to promote the messages in many conferences in China.

http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html



Prof. Zhuo Dahong in Guangzhou; promoting the messages of the world report at the Inauguration of the First Guangdong Association for Occupational Therapists, August 2011.

Part 3 Useful Resources

Websites from HKSR

1) <http://realitylearn.net/rehab/chn/> (Chinese)

The HKSR worked with Cicada/Reality Learning, an Australian multi-media NGO, to develop this online learning module which incorporating scenarios, fusing reality with drama and using e-learning pedagogy to simulate cases and problems. Participants, including rehabilitation doctors, nurses and therapists, will be part of the story and need to interact with the help-seeker (key role of the story) to guide them through the hard time and accomplish the rehabilitation plan and goals.

Guest log-in can be provided on request; please contact Mr. Choi Sai-kit: sk.choi@rehabociety.org.hk

2) www.rehabupdates.net/ (Chinese)

Bite-size self-learning modules and tutor-supporting forum compose this e-platform to link rehabilitation personnel from all over China. Users can grab-n-learn rehabilitation updates and knowledge at their own pace and interact with other rehabilitation professionals to share their experiences and seek for advice. You are welcome to register to the website.

Publications from NRCDC

NRCDC prepared rehabilitation manuals for PWDs and relevant professionals. The manuals were distributed to WPRO CCs and organizations of rehabilitation in Asia Pacific region.

You can visit the following URL to view the manuals:

<http://www.rehab.go.jp/English/whoclbc/manuals.html>

Part 4 Events

Reports from Past Events

Reported by Ms. Sheila Purves, Hong Kong

World Confederation of Physical Therapy World Congress

June 20-23, 2011, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

More than 5000 physical therapists from around the world participated in the congress. The abstracts may be read online, and we are waiting for most of the PowerPoint presentations and posters to also be uploaded. The WCPT has just endorsed an Accreditation Guidelines for Physical Therapy Curriculum; however, the WCPT says they are not giving formal recognition, just guidance at this stage; although most of the representatives from developing countries would like more formal recognition to increase their visibility with their governments.

<http://www.wcpt.org/node/42582#1>

The 16th Biennial School Nurses International Conference

July 25-29, 2011, Hong Kong SAR, China.

The conference was organized by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University WHO CC for Community Health Services, with the WHO WPRO. HKSR and Chinese University of HK WHO CC for Health Promotion actively supported. The conference's theme was The Role of School Nurses: Evidence-based Practice, Globalization and Policy Formulation. More than 300 health care professionals and scholars from 24 countries participated.

Most Hong Kong schools do not have nurses, and the School Nurse Association was only formed in 2010 to identify the demand for such positions. During the conference, it was interesting to hear school nurses from Japan talk about their role in school emergency and disaster plans.

<http://sn.polyu.edu.hk/whocc/SNI2011CONF/default.asp>

Upcoming Events

- **The UN Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases:**

September 19-20, 2011, New York, United States (<http://www.ncdalliance.org/>).

- **The 4th International Congress of Avaps on Rehabilitation and Inclusion:**

November 7-9, 2011, Sao Paulo, Brazil (http://www.riglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/AVAPE_RI_CONFERENCE.pdf).

- **The 5th Asia Pacific Occupational Therapy Congress:**

November 19-24, 2011, Chiang Mai, Thailand (<http://www.apotc2011.org/>).

- **The 2nd Asia Pacific Community-based Rehabilitation Congress:**

November 29- December 1, 2011, Manila, The Philippines (www.ncda.gov.ph).

- **The World Report on Disability: Implication for Asia and the Pacific:**

December 5-6, 2011, Sydney, Australia (http://sydney.edu.au/health_sciences/disability-symposium/).

*The next issue is planned in January 2012; please send your news to Ms. Sheila Purves:
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